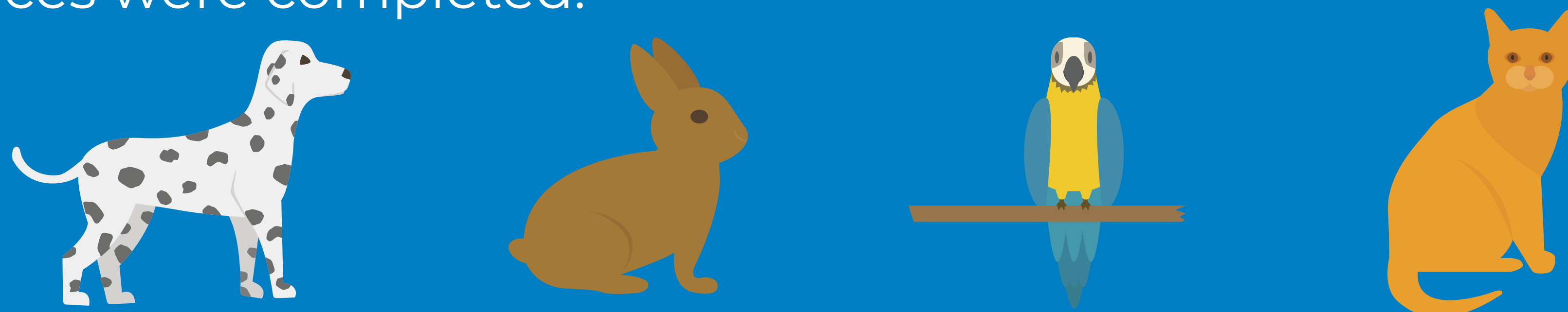


Managing unclaimed animals in your practice

Sometimes an animal is kept at a veterinary facility for services and the client agrees to pick the animal up at a later time or date, when the services are completed. Occasionally, a client neglects to pick up their animal. When this happens, the law permits a veterinarian to transfer an unclaimed animal to an animal shelter or third-party owner if at least 10 days have passed since the services were completed.



The veterinarian provides the animal with necessary care and housing during the 10-day period, and attempts to contact the client.



If the client is contacted and chooses not to reclaim the animal, they must agree in writing to transfer the animal after 10 days have passed.



If the client cannot be reached and 10 days have passed, the veterinarian must do all of the following before transferring the animal:

- Attempt to reach the client on at least five occasions by at least two different methods, such as phone, e-mail, and mail,
- Make at least one attempt to contact the emergency contact person identified by the client, and
- Document the contact attempts and methods in the animal's medical record.

